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disputes with our colonies' and at the same time 'relieved America from the fetters of the old charters'". Furthermore, Grafton was defeated by only one vote in his efforts to include tea with the other articles the duties on which were repealed and, as Sir Almeric says, "Hillsborough betrayed his chief by the omission from the minute communicating the decision to the governors of the colonies of the soothing and conciliatory expressions which the defeated section of the Cabinet obtained their colleagues' consent to introduce." It is fitting that Sir Almeric should give the parting word to a work begun at his own initiation and in which his interest has been maintained to the end.

A sixth volume will follow completing the series and containing material from the uncalendared papers in the custody of the Privy Council as far as the year 1800, when that collection of papers comes to an end.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

George the Third and Charles Fox: the Concluding Part of the American Revolution. By Sir GEORGE OTTO TREVELYAN, Bart., O.M. In two volumes. Volume I. (New York, London, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1912. Pp. xi, 311.)

THE historical work of Sir George Otto Trevelyan is most exasperating to the reviewer. One is so carried away with the mere reading of the entrancing pages that one forgets to be on the watch for all those little errors and inaccuracies of statement which are the joy of every true reviewer. Moreover, the author has dwelt with his subject so long, and thought upon it so deeply that what he has chosen to tell us has a certainty and inevitableness about it like a decree of fate. The truth in the large has been so perfectly divined that any error of detail is not of sufficient moment to notice. It is true that there is no doubt in the mind of the reader of this volume, as there has been no chance for dubiety on the part of the reader of the earlier volumes, that a Whig sympathizer has written the history, but he is a generous Whig who can speak with enthusiasm even of George III. in his better aspects as the earnest and devoted defender of his country against the attacks of France and Spain. The Tory Gibbon, too, even in the character of hireling defender of Lord North and his policies, comes in for generous praise and evident admiration. Trevelyan writes like a great man of affairs who has lived in the midst of the political events of which he discourses. He is the familiar of all his heroes and even of his scapegoats. His mind has long been made up about them, and there is no shadow of doubt to cool the warmth of his praises or of his denunciations. His descriptions of Fox send thrill after thrill even through a skeptical, cynical historical investigator who has schooled himself to be suspicious of all literary effects. So, too, is it with the passages about

Burke to the extent that one even accepts the author's assertion that "so full and cultured a mind as Burke's,—so vivid an imagination, and so intense and catholic an interest in all human affairs, past and present,—have never been placed at the service of the state by anyone except Cicero". Biography and politics are so deftly interwoven that the unity of the historical tapestry is perfect. In the drama that passes before the reader Fox and Burke are the heroes, George III., Lord North, and Lord Sandwich are the villains, but the social and economic background is never forgotten in watching the players. There is a fullness of knowledge and yet a restraint in the using of it which assures us that, though we are left in darkness as to many stupid things that happened in that age, yet the author knew about them and spared us.

In its mere rhetorical aspects the writing is a model of what historical composition should be. The balance and the sweep of the sentences seem never to be attained at the price of truth. The witty turns, the clever epigrams, which from a man of cruder literary sense would destroy our confidence in his scholarly integrity have no weakening effect on these delightful pages. Who can find fault if the solemn historical muse smiles for a moment while it relates of Fox that "even during the bustle of the American controversy he contrived to get through an enormous amount of reading in that bed which he sought unwillingly towards daybreak, and left with all but insuperable reluctance at two in the afternoon". And again, "He was not in, but above the fashion; and the world,—overstocked as it always has been, with dandies and coxcombs,—liked Charles Fox all the better for his inattention to outward appearance." At least in these pages we are never annoyed by the snore of the historical muse. Moreover, though the author is not uninitiated in rhetorical devices, these never obtrude upon our attention, so perfect is the art. The very digressions, almost as numerous as in *Tristram Shandy*, which sometimes lead us far from the theme in hand, do not displease for a new interest replaces the one we have abandoned for a time.

It is almost ungracious to criticize what has given us so much pleasure, but it must be said of this volume, as of the whole work, that in the main it is a history of England in the time of the American Revolution. Many of the most vital questions of the American history are unanswered—the liberal movement, the struggle between seaboard and back country, the rise of constitutional theories, and industrial and social movement, receive at best but a passing notice. There is a want of acquaintance with some very important monographs on the American questions and too much reliance upon Fiske and Lossing. "Edward M'Cracken" (p. 265) should be Edward McCrady. The assertion that Pitt's requisitions upon the colonies during the Seven Years' War "were met with prompt and eager obedience" meets with complete refutation in E. I. McCormac's *Colonial Opposition to Imperial Authority during the French and Indian War*.

C. H. VAN TYNE.